

NEW AND INTERESTING BUTTERFLY RECORDS (LEPIDOPTERA) FROM TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS

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Abstract

Tellervo zoilus digulica Hulstaert, *Melanitis constantia* Cramer and *Nacaduba calauria* (Felder) are recorded from Australia for the first time. *Telicota colon argeus* (Plötz) and *Nacaduba pactolus* (Felder) are recorded from Murray Island and *Deudorix diovis* Hewitson from Darnley Island.

HESPERIIDAE

Telicota colon argeus (Plötz)

Several adults taken flying in grassy areas on Murray Island in April 1993 are the first record of this species from the island. Within Australian limits the species was previously known only as far north as Moa Island (Common and Waterhouse 1981).

NYMPHALIDAE

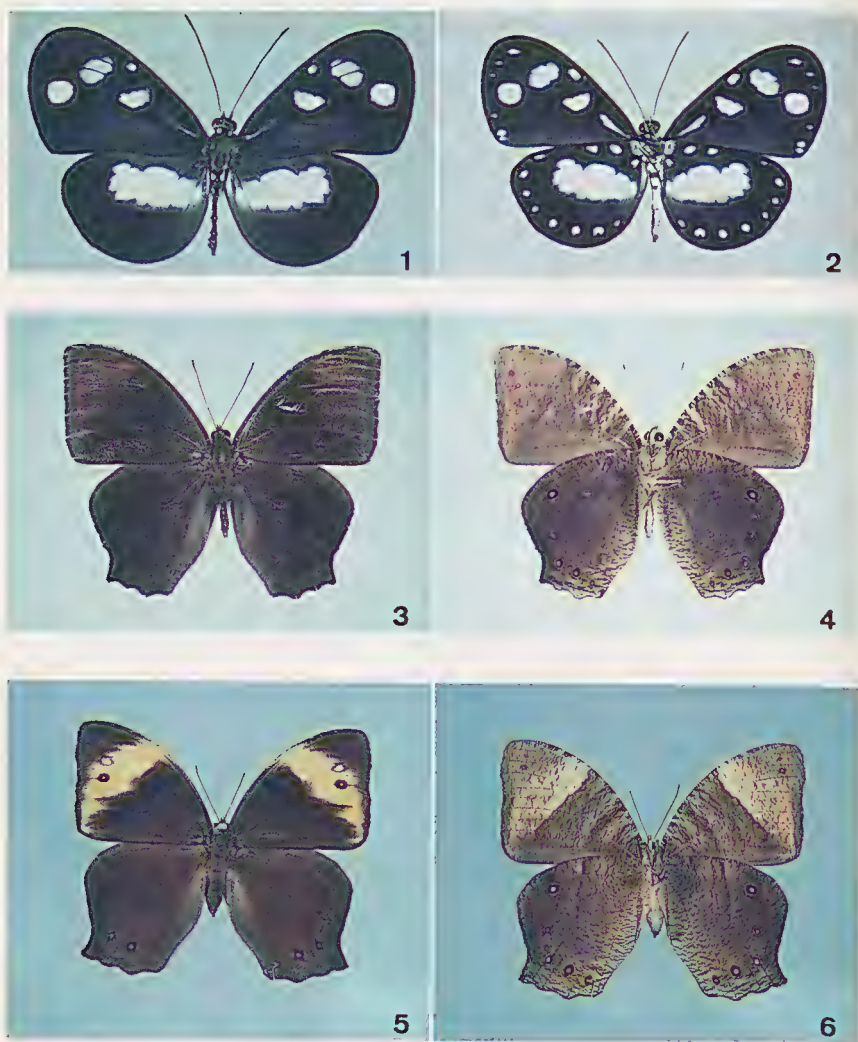
Tellervo zoilus digulica Hulstaert

In April 1993 adults were common in rainforest areas on Murray Island. They differ from *T. z. zoilus* (Fabricius) and *T. z. gelo* Waterhouse and Lyell in having a much reduced hindwing bar (Figs 1, 2). The markings are consistent with *T. z. digulica* which occurs on the Digul River in West Irian and the Bensback and Morehead Rivers in southern Papua New Guinea (Ackery 1987).

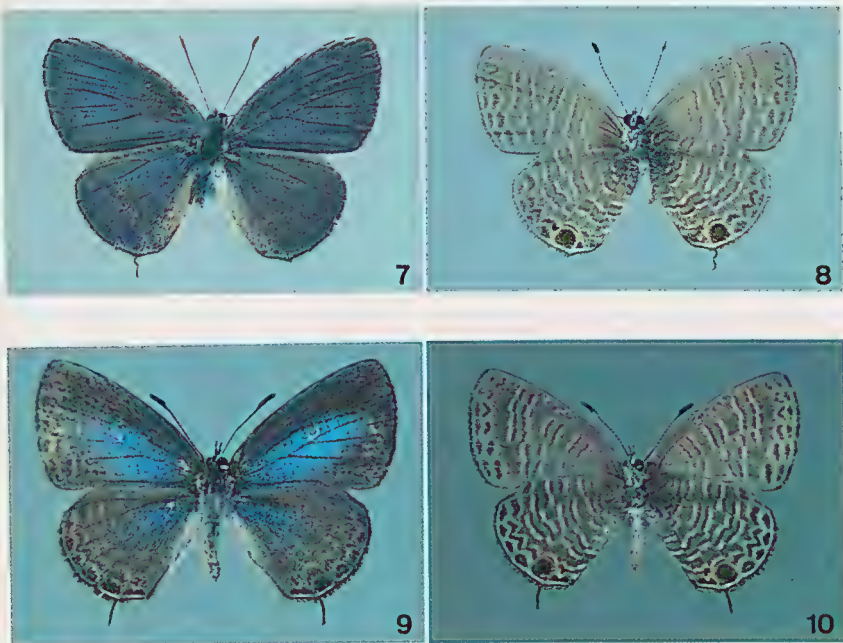
Melanitis constantia (Cramer)

Twelve specimens taken on Murray Island in April 1993 establish the presence of this species within Australian limits. Elsewhere it is known from the Moluccas through West Irian and Papua New Guinea to the Bismarck Islands (D'Abrera 1971). All specimens were taken within rainforest where they were markedly crepuscular and were attracted to rotting fruit.

Males (Figs 3, 4) are variable and resemble the melanic form of *M. leda bankia* (Fabricius) from which they can be separated by the absence of ocelli on the upperside forewing band. Females (Fig 5, 6) are easily recognised by the prominent cream forewing band. The Australian specimens appear closest to *M. c. constantia* (Cramer).



Figs 1-6. (1-2) *Tellervo zoilus digulica*, Murray Island (1) ♂ upperside. (2) ♂ underside. (3-6) *Melanitis constantia*, Murray Island (3) ♂ upperside. (4) ♂ underside. (5) ♀ upperside. (6) ♀ underside.



Figs 7-10. *Nacaduba calauria*, Murray Island (7) ♂ upperside. (8) ♂ underside. (9) ♀ upperside. (10) ♀ underside. Forewing lengths (1-2) 27 mm; (3-6) 42 mm; (7-10) 15 mm.

LYCAENIDAE

Deudorix diovis Hewitson

This species was first collected in the Torres Strait on Murray Island in 1986 (Lambkin and Knight 1990). A single male taken and others seen on Darnley Island in April 1993 establishes its presence on that island.

Nacaduba calauria (Felder)

A series of 5 male and 3 female *Nacaduba* sp. taken on Murray Island in April 1993 appeared to be different from *N. berenice* (Herrich-Schäffer). The male genitalia showed marked differences to those of *N. berenice* and were identical to those of *N. calauria* as figured by Tite (1963). Two males taken in April 1989 by A.J. and I.R. Johnson which had been tentatively assigned to *N. berenice* (Lambkin and Knight 1990) also belong to this species.

Adults (Figs 7 - 10) can be distinguished by the violet upperside, the grey suffusion on the underside and the distal displacement of the inner margin of the forewing post median band at CuA1. The species occurs widely from

Ceylon to Papua New Guinea (Tite 1963). The Australian specimens appear closest to *N. c. calauria* (Felder).

Nacaduba pactolus (Felder)

Previously known in Australia from a pair of specimens from Darnley Island (Waterhouse and Lyell 1914), a male of this species taken on Murray Island in April 1993 confirms its presence within Australia.

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